

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

Press Release

March 2, 2023

Education bills would increase compensation, add reciprocity on licensure

A trio of bills filed in the North Carolina Senate would make the state more attractive to educators, as well as easing the way for out-of-state teacher hires.

Two bills would boost compensation. <u>S185 - Restore Educator Longevity</u> would restore annual longevity payments for teachers and instructional personnel. <u>S184 - Restore Master's Pay for Teachers & ISP</u> would restore salary supplements for teachers and instructional personnel who earn master's and doctoral degrees. The third, <u>S177 - Teacher License Reciprocity</u>, would create a system for districts to grant licensure to out-of-state teachers who have three or more years of experience and home-state licensure in good standing, provided the state's standards are comparable to North Carolina's standards.

"These bills are good for education and good for North Carolina," said Stephanie Sneed, vice chair of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. "We need to recognize and reward longevity and advanced degrees. And we desperately need new teachers! Recognizing and accepting licensure credentials from out-of-state candidates will help us get the teachers our children need."

Sneed also noted that all three of the proposals were on the Board of Education's legislative agenda, which sets out priority issues for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Primary sponsors of S185 -- Restore Educator Longevity, were Sens. Joyce Waddell, Rachel Hunt, and Mujtaba Mohammed, all Democrats who represent Mecklenburg County. Co-sponsors included Sens. Natasha Marcus (D) and DeAndrea Salvador (D), who also represent Mecklenburg.

Waddell, Hunt, and Mohammed were primary sponsors of S184 -- Restore Master's Pay for Teachers & ISP. Marcus and Sen. Vickie Sawyer, (R), who represents Mecklenburg and Iredell, are co-sponsors.

Waddell was the primary sponsor on S177 - Teacher License Reciprocity. Co-sponsors included all senators representing Mecklenburg (Hunt, Marcus, Mohammed, Salvador, and Sawyer).

"We greatly appreciate the responsiveness of our state legislators on these bills," Sneed said.